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NFHS-5 SHOWS ANAEMIA, OBESITY RISING, FERTILITY RATE DIPPING

Over half of Indian women and children anaemic; women likely to bear 2 kids on average, down from the 2.2 fertility rate in 2015-16

SOME NUTRITIONAL INDICATORS FALLING

The 2019-21 National Family Health Survey estimates 67.1% of India's kids and 57% of women have anaemia, up from 58.6% and 53.1% respectively from the prior 2015-2016 NFHS. Obesity has risen to 22.9% from 18.9% in men and to 24% from 20.6% in women. The data combines figures from two phases of the NFHS-5, with the latest phase covering 14 states & UTs

U.P. HAS HIGHEST FERTILITY IN 2ND PHASE

- Most countries have a replacement-level fertility rate (at which a population replaces itself across generations) of around 2.1
- India's fertility rate has dipped below the 2.1-mark for the first time, with states' figures ranging from 1.4 in Chandigarh to 2.4 in Uttar Pradesh. The metric has declined in the majority of states

Phase 2

OF NFHS-5 COVERED STATES SUCH AS TN, UP, MP, PUNJAB AND RAJASTHAN

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARWAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Free foodgrain scheme gets poll season booster

Cabinet decision to benefit 80 cr ration card holders, cost ₹53,344 crore to the exchequer

MANISH ANAND @ New Delhi

STAYING the course to give the BJP a poll booster ahead of the Assembly elections in five states, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday gave its nod to extend the PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana — wherein 5 kg of foodgrains per person is given each month — till March 2022. The Cabinet also approved the legislative proposal to repeal the three contentious farm laws enacted by Parliament last year, to give effect to the Prime Minister's recent announcement, which was also aimed at mitigating the potential electoral damage to the BJP in poll-bound states.

PM Garib Kalyan Yojana, announced in the wake of the imposition of nationwide lockdown last year, will cost the exchequer a whopping ₹2.60 lakh crore, with its fifth phase from December 2021 to March 2022 alone costing ₹53,344 crore.

The BJP-led government at the Centre had started giving poll cushion to the party after the outcome of the largest by-elections in which the saffron outfit saw reversals in Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, and Rajasthan with Madhya Pradesh being the sole exception. The decision to reduce the excise duty on petrol and diesel was the first major step, which was followed up with Prime Minister Narendra Modi announcing the repeal of the three contentious farm laws. The legislative proposals to amend the list of the scheduled tribes for Uttar Pradesh and Tripura are also on the cards.

PM Garib Kalyan Yojana claims to cover 80 crore people in its ambit and is running uninterrupted since April 2020, with the first four phases witnessing allocation of 600 lakh tonnes of foodgrains to states and Union territories.

The Centre is currently on an infrastructure inauguration and foundation-laying spree in UP, with the PM slated to lay the foundation of the Jewar international airport in the state on Thursday. He had unveiled the Poorvanchal expressway recently.

Four out of five states heading for the Assembly elections during February-March 2022 are currently ruled by the BJP, with the Congress being the main rival of the saffron outfit in Uttarakhand, Goa, Manipur and Punjab. The crucial state of Uttar Pradesh is bracing for a multi-cornered contest.

CABINET CLEARS BILL TO REPEAL FARM BILLS

Briefing reporters about the Cabinet decisions in New Delhi on Wednesday, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur said the formalities to give effect to repealing the three contentious farm laws have been completed and the repeal bill will be brought before both the Houses of Parliament at the earliest. The winter session of Parliament will commence on Monday

THE BIG HAUL
NAME: S M Biradar
DESIGNATION: Junior Engineer, PWD
PLACE: Jewargi, Kalaburagi district
PROPERTY UNEARTHED: 2 houses in Kalaburagi, 1 site in Bengaluru, 3 cars, 1 two-wheeler, 1 school bus, 2 tractors, cash ₹54.50 lakh, 100 grams of gold, 36 acres of agricultural land, household goods worth ₹12 lakh

ACB sleuths pull out cash from a drain pipe at the house of a PWD junior engineer in Kalaburagi | SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Pipe that coughs up cash: This engineer had it all right, till...

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kalaburagi, Bengaluru

THE Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Wednesday conducted a massive search and seizure operation on the offices and residences of 15 government officials across the state. Illegal assets running into crores of rupees, including Rs 1,53,89,000 cash and 16.495 kg gold, were recovered from them.

It was pure drama at the palatial house of Kalaburagi PWD Junior Engineer, Shantagouda Biradar. The ACB team knocked on his doors around 9 am. But the sleuths were made to wait for more than 10 minutes, raising their suspicion.

Once in, they searched every nook and cranny but did not find anything suspicious. A tipoff from the neighbours led them to a drain pipe in which the money had been stashed away. The police summoned a plumber to cut open the pipe and pulled out bundles of Rs 500 notes. By the time the pipeline was emptied out, there was a pile of Rs 13.50 lakh in cash. P4

Didi meets Modi but gives Sonia a miss

ENS @ New Delhi

WEST Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi but skipped meeting Congress president Sonia Gandhi, triggering speculation about her future political moves. "Why should we meet Sonia every time? It is not constitutionally mandated," the Trinamool supremo quipped when asked about not calling on the Congress chief.

Talking to reporters, Mamata said she invited Modi to inaugurate the Bengal Global Summit (BGS) in Kolkata in April next year and that the PM accepted the invite, adding that political differences should not impact Centre-state ties. During the meeting with the PM, she raised the issues of BSF's territorial jurisdiction, central debts to states, political violence in Tripura, and the crisis faced by jute industry in West Bengal. "I have requested the PM to inaugurate BGS. We are not sure how many countries will participate given the Covid situation, but if the Centre and state work together it will send a strong message and show the right direction to industry," she added.

She also demanded the BSF's territorial jurisdiction be withdrawn. "Protecting the federal structure of our country should be of prime importance. We deeply respect all institutions and Central agencies," she said. Notably, Mamata did not meet any opposition party leaders, not even Sonia, during her visit to the national capital, saying they are all "busy with Punjab elections".

Earlier in the day, she met BJP MP Subramanian Swamy, fuelling speculation that he might join the TMC. Both the leaders rejected the notion.

Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee meets PM Narendra Modi in New Delhi | PTI

12 Meghalaya Cong MLAs join Trinamool: Reports

Twelve out of the 17 Congress MLAs in Meghalaya, including former CM Mukul Sangma, have reportedly joined the Trinamool Congress, though there is no official confirmation yet. The switchover could deal a body blow to the Congress which is batting infighting in the state

CAPITAL ANARCHY

Northern parts of Bengaluru saw unprecedented flooding on Monday night, hitting headlines. Here are the reasons for deluge.

1. No single body to take responsibility and complete drain and other works
2. Increasing concretisation and loss of green cover
3. No strict enforcement of rain water harvesting rule
4. Kalyanis and check dams not managed. In many areas, they do not even exist

P2

Drone in KIA red zone sets off alarm bells, ICMR, sister institute to be booked

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

THE Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) and one of its institutions landed in trouble for flying a drone into the red zone or no-go zone of the Kempegowda International Airport on Tuesday, which is a violation of the norm that no unscheduled flying object should be flown in the 5 km radius of the airport.

The error was committed by the National Centre for Disease Informatics and Research (NCDIR), which operates out of the ICMR campus on Poojanahalli Road close to the Trumpet leading to the airport. The Airport police have approached a local court and are waiting for its permission to book a case against ICMR and NCDIR.

ICMR is an apex body for the promotion of biomedical research. P7

The drone that had strayed into the vicinity of Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru | EXPRESS

CRYPTO RECOVERS AS CLARITY EMERGES

Only one or two cryptos will survive, says Rajan

Former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan on Wednesday said that most of the crypto-currencies will perish and only one or two out of the 6,000-odd crypto-currencies will survive. "If things have value only because they will be pricier down the line, that's a bubble," he said in an interview to a channel. "Cryptos may pose the same problem as unregulated chit funds, which take money from people and go bust, a lot of people holding crypto assets are going to be aggrieved," he added

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

MORE clarity emerged on the proposed cryptocurrency bill to be tabled in Parliament as various government and industry sources claimed that the government may not go for a blanket ban, and instead may allow some digital currencies with proper regulations.

With experts doubting the possibility of a blanket ban, cryptocurrenciers in India recovered sharply after witnessing a 25% drop on Monday night and early morning trade on Tuesday. Most cryptocurrencies were trading 8-10% lower than their 24-hour peak. Bitcoin, which had touched a low of ₹33.21 lakh during the past 24 hours, recovered the losses and traded above ₹41 lakh at the time of filing this report.

It was still trading 10% lower than the 24-hour high of ₹46.51 lakh.

The idea that cryptocurrencies would be banned by the government stemmed from the agenda of the bill listed for the winter session of Parliament. P13

TAKE YOUR SHOT

Nov 23 **68,35,617 doses**

Nov 24 **79,65,803 doses**

TOTAL DOSES 1,18,35,73,646

NATIONWIDE	NOV 23	NOV 24
Fresh cases	7,579	9,283
Recoveries	12,202	10,949
Deaths	236	437

KARNATAKA	NOV 22	NOV 23
Fresh cases	224	254
Recoveries	379	546
Deaths	5	3

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METRO CAST NETWORK INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED

Corporate Office

CHIEF GUEST

Hon. Shri Basavaraj Bommai

Chief Minister of Karnataka

Date: 25 November, 2021 | Time : 11 am Onwards

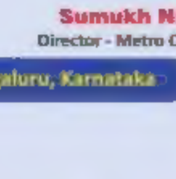
GUESTS OF HONOUR

Hon. Shri Veeranna Somanna
Minister of Housing and Infrastructure Development, Karnataka

Hon. Shri Murugesh Nirani
Minister of Large and Medium Industries of Karnataka

Hon. Shri Munirathna Naidu
Minister of Horticulture

Hon. Shri D K Shivakumar
President of the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee



Hon. Shri Rizwan Arshad
Member of Karnataka Legislative Council

Hon. Smt. Laxmi Hebbalkar
Member of Legislative Assembly, Belagavi

Hon. Shri Abhay Patil
Member of Legislative Assembly, Belagavi

Hon. Shri Anil Benake
Member of Legislative Assembly, Belagavi

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Promoter - Metro Cast Network India Pvt Ltd

Nagesh Narayandas Chhabria
Promoter and Managing Director - Metro Cast Network India Pvt Ltd

Sumukh Nagesh Chhabria
Director - Metro Cast Network India Pvt Ltd

Address : 4th Floor, KCN Bhavan, Yamuna Bai Road, Madhav Nagar, Gandhi Nagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka

Best Wishes

Riddhi & Aditya Asrani

Team of Metro Cast Network India Pvt Ltd